



ON THE STREET

The Peoples Church of Chicago Newsletter for January, 2009

"A Spiritual Home for People of Conscience"

CALENDAR

Film/Movie Night –

- ? Fourth Friday, Jan 23, 6-8pm.
"Be Kind Rewind," with Jack Black and Mos Def – followed by discussion.

Song and Hymn Sing –

- ? Thursday, 5:30 – 6:30pm.

Upcoming Services

- ? Sun, Jan 4, 10am: "**A New Year**"
- ? Sun, Jan 11, 10am: "**Economic Justice**"; Trustees meet at 11:30.
- ? Sun, Jan 18, 10am: Rev. **Ra Chaka** speaking, followed by **potluck** and our **Sacred Conversation on Race**.
- ? Sun, Jan 25, 10am: Rev. **Susan Harlow**, on her Spiritual Journey.

All services followed by fellowship, with coffee and light refreshments.

Other Events

- ? Sat, Jan 3, 7pm: **Classical Piano Recital with Joseph Bures**.
- ? Sun, Feb 1: Service followed by Peoples Church **Annual Meeting**.

2 Li'l Fishes

Each Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday, a free lunch is served in the new space on 3 ½ West. All are welcome.

If you would like to help, phone Will Pruitt, our new volunteer coordinator, 773-754-6102.

Minister's Notes:

Re-soul-utions

Rev. Jean Siegfried Darling

'Tis the season to make New Year's resolutions (or resolve not to make them!). The process of making resolutions for the new year is really a way of assessing how last year went for each of us, and deciding how we might like things to be different in the future. It helps keep our "eyes on the prize," whatever our goals are.

At Peoples Church we'll be mulling over what 2009 will look like for us, at our Trustees meeting of January 11, and our Annual Meeting of the congregation, February 1. For me, that means examining who we are as a congregation? What is the soul of Peoples Church? And how can we best live out of our soul, in the coming months ahead?

What began as a typo in the title above reminded me of the clever and heart-warming puns and wordplay in the spiritual musings of Swami Beyondananda (a.k.a. Steve Bhaerman). In one of his recent columns he writes about the financial crisis:

Fortunately, money isn't wealth. In and of itself, it is worthless. If you doubt that, try this simple experiment. Eat your money. While high in fiber, paper money has little nutritional value. And here is something even more amazing. A hundred dollar bill has no more nutritional content than a dollar bill.

So here's the real good news. As surely as the sun comes up every morning, we have more abundant wealth than we know what to do with. Wealth is energy, and how that energy is used. Not only have we been given solar energy to grow our food and power our lives, we've been given soul energy as well - to use and magnify our resources wisely. With the collapse of the house of credit cards economy, we can finally get real. We can use the two most underdeveloped resources on the planet, love and imagination, to re-grow our Garden and have a heaven of a time doing it.

So let us put our natural resources to work, love and imagination, to go into this New Year with hope and spirit, with enthusiasm and laughter, in spite of the things that may worry us – if we let them. We want to get back in touch with our souls, with our most heart-

cont'd...

Minister's Notes, cont'd

felt desires and most positive convictions about what is possible in the world.

One thing I'm hoping to expand is our interfaith outlook. We have long-time connections with Temple Shalom, who have served our Christmas meal for years, and our connections to the Uptown Buddhist Temple date back to early Preston Bradley years.

Now we are exploring holding an inter-religious cultural event here in our sanctuary, with jazz, poetry, dance and theater to celebrate the unity of all people. We'll keep you posted.

peace, *Jean*

2 Li'l Fishes – Isaac's Letter to Molly:



Molly Waite's encouragement inspired Isaac to pursue his dream for 2 Li'l Fishes, and then she left us last March to join the Peace Corps in Botswana, where she is helping with AIDS education and dancing with the folks she lives

and works with. See her blog at:

<http://www.mollysbotswanablog.blogspot.com>.

Isaac's note to her grew into a whole letter:

Dear Molly:

I'm so sorry that it has taken this long to correspond with you but you have to believe the 2 Li'l Fishes crew has been very busy with accommodating more clients and walk-ins, remodeling an overflow lunchroom, fundraising, adding more days to the meal program (oops, I mean 2 Li'l Fishes lunches), the holidays, etc, etc.

It's been a very fast-paced few months since I've last seen you. People have been climbing aboard and showing us much love with donations and volunteers. We've raised approximately \$50,000 cash and a host of volunteers who want to be a part of the 2 Li'l Fishes lunch program. I even have 7 EarnFare workers from the Dept of Public Aid.

The Salvation Army on Sunnyside has shut its doors for good and that eliminated 300-500 meals per day that they'd served. 2 Li'l Fishes is getting a lot of those hungry folks, therefore, increasing our lunches served. We've renovated the 3rd floor

room to fill our extra hungry neighbors and friends. We've even dedicated that room to you, girl. We've decided to call it "Molly's Café." I consulted with our African clients who speak the language of their homeland and they assured me that "café" pretty much is called "café" in Africa the same as it is in America.

You see, we wanted to call the new room here in whatever language they speak in Botswana. But it still comes out "café." We plan on adding our 5th day to 2 Li'l Fishes in mid-January, 2009. And a 6th day later in the year. Thank you for introducing us to your friends Jeff and Barbara. They've been oh, so helpful to us...

Will (once my assistant cook) is now on our payroll as lead cook/ volunteer coordinator. I'm happy to have been able to reach back and help someone who gave me four years of himself just because he had love for me and shared my vision for our guests.

We miss you so much here at 2 Li'l Fishes. Had it not been for you listening to a brother's dream, 2 Li'l Fishes at Preston Bradley Center may never have stuck its head above water. Thank you.

Because you blew breath into a seemingly far-away desire, 2 Li'l Fishes now has a life of its own. We're not swimming too deep into the pond, but at least we're swimming and getting stronger and more confident with each stroke. Who would have thunk it, huh, girl?

I can't wait for you to get done with your assignment so that you can bring us that smile. I miss you, girl. Be safe. Stay strong, and God bless you.

Your friend,
Isaac Barrantine
Program Coordinator
2 Li'l Fishes at Preston Bradley

FORUM: The Economic Crisis and Its Affect on Homelessness

Saturday, January 31, 3 to 5 p.m.

First Unitarian Church, 5650 S. Woodlawn

Info: uusj@sbcglobal.net or 773-643-8061

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Calendar – January 2009

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1 New Year's Day	2	3 7pm Joseph Bures Classical piano	4 10am Service "Continuing the Conversation" – discussing service
5	6	7	8 5:30 – music	9	10	11 10am Service 11:30 PC Trustees
12	13	14	15 5:30 – music	16	17	18 10am Service Ra Chaka, speaker 11:30am Potluck Sacred Conversation on Race continues
19	20	21	22 5:30 – music	23 6pm – Film Night "Be Kind Rewind"	24	25 10am Service Rev. Susan Harlow "Spiritual Journey"
26	27	28	29 5:30 – <i>no music</i>	30	31 Forum at 1 st Unitarian Church: "The Economic Crisis: Its Effect on Homelessness"	1 FEB – 10am Service 11:30 **Annual Meeting**